

N E W S R E L E A S E

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Disaster Unemployment Assistance deadline extended to May 11

SACRAMENTO – Workers who have lost their jobs because of the January freeze now have until May 11 to file for Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA), a program that provides payments to workers who were not eligible for regular unemployment benefits.

The filing deadline, originally April 13, was extended through May 11 by the U.S. Department of Labor, acting in response to a request from the state Employment Development Department (EDD).

The DUA program provides benefits of up to \$450 a week for up to 26 weeks. It covers workers who have the legal right to work in the United States but are not eligible for regular unemployment benefits, including workers who have exhausted their regular unemployment benefits, self-employed workers and others.

“This extension will benefit many workers who are suffering financial hardship because of the freeze but were not able to meet the original deadline,” EDD Director Patrick Henning said. “Workers should not assume that they do not qualify for DUA. We urge them to apply for these benefits.”

DUA became available March 13 after President Bush replied to a request from Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and declared a major disaster in 12 counties in central and southern California. They are Fresno, Imperial, Kern, Los Angeles, Monterey, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Tulare and Ventura.

The fastest way to apply is online at www.edd.ca.gov. Otherwise, workers should call EDD, toll-free: 1-800-300-5616 in English, 1-800-326-8937 in Spanish, or TTY at 1-800-815-9387.

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